

FAR EASTERN CURLEW

Numenius madagascariensis

non-breeding visitor, vagrant

monotypic

The Far Eastern Curlew breeds in Siberia and n. Mongolia and winters from Taiwan to the Philippines, Australia, and (rarely) New Zealand (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1951c, Higgins and Davies 1996). It is a rare but regular transient through w. Alaskan islands, Micronesia (E to Chuuk but numbers decreasing), and Fiji (Pratt et al. 1987, 2010; AOU 1998, Wiles et al. 2004, Wiles 2005). There are two records for the *Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. On **Laysan**, one was observed 4 Sep 1996 and described adequately to eliminate other curlew species. At **French Frigate**, one was photographed on Disappearing I, 3-10 June 2002 ([HRBP 5144-5152](#), published *NAB* 56:512). The images show distinct streaking on chest and a normal bill tip, which helps to eliminate the far less likely Long-billed Curlew *N. americanus* (*cf.* *NAB* 56:498), which has a unique bulbous-tipped and extended upper mandible. We consider the documented individual from French Frigate as providing photographic support to the earlier sight record from Laysan.

Finsch and Hartlaub (1867), followed by Dole (1869, 1879) referred to "*Numenius australis*", an old name for Far Eastern Curlew, to the Hawaiian Islands, but they were undoubtedly referring to [Bristle-thighed Curlew](#).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

Citation: Pyle, R.L., and P. Pyle. 2017. The Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status. B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A. Version 2 (1 January 2017) <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/>